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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001093

SIPDIS

OFFICIAL INFORMAL

DEPARTMENT FOR SA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06-23-13

TAGS: [AMGT](#) [CE](#) [MV](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL NUMBER 94 (06-23-03)

Classified by Donald A. Camp, Charge d'Affaires,  
Reasons: 1.5 (b,d)

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#### KILLING IN COLOMBO AREA

1. (C) We just received late word that a police officer was gunned down in the greater Colombo area earlier today (June 23). After taking cyanide, the suspect was arrested and is now in the hospital. The inspector who was killed, Sunil Thabrew, had reportedly been heavily involved in investigating the numerous killings of military informants of Tamil ethnicity that have taken place in past weeks and months. Given this link, Thabrew's killing seems to be related to the recent spate of killings of Tamil opponents of the LTTE that Mission has been reporting on (see Colombo 1078, and previous). The fact that a police officer has now been killed (with the LTTE the apparent culprit) and that the killing took place in the greater Colombo area will be seen by many as an escalation in such violence. The fact that the inspector was Sinhalese also will not please the majority community. The Ops Center just called about the slaying and we briefed them on what we knew. We will be providing more information on the incident tomorrow (June 24). (POL/RSO)

#### IRAQI CHARGE COMMENTS

2. (C) Please pass this information to NEA and DoD: Polchief received a phone call on June 20 from Iraqi Charge Wajdi Mardan Abbas requesting an immediate meeting to discuss an "urgent" matter. (Note: Abbas had been interviewed several times before by Ambassador Wills, DCM and RSO, and other USG officials -- see previous reporting.) RSO met with Abbas late June 20.

3. (C) Abbas had just returned from what he said were two "very discouraging" weeks in Baghdad. (Note: He stated that Amb. Bremer and the interim authority had recalled all Iraqi COMs for Baghdad meetings.) He started his comments by incidentally complaining about conditions in Baghdad: lack of water; reliable power; lawlessness and a sense of general instability, etc. He asserted that the coalition had already lost the initiative in terms of winning hearts and minds...that the mood of the people was becoming impatient with the slow progress toward the return of essential services. His real (and apparently to him -- "urgent") comments dealt with what he said was Amb. Bremer's plan to close 32 of the current 64 Iraqi missions. He complained that the decision to close a mission should be an "Iraqi Government" decision. He asked, who would be responsible for the diplomatic properties, equipment, documents and consular services? He opined that a decision to close half the Iraqi Embassies worldwide would not be viewed favorably in the Arab world. Lastly, Abbas wanted to ensure that this message was passed to Washington. RSO advised him that the message would be sent, and asked him what he would do if he was ordered home? Abbas said he didn't know. It was unlikely that he would go back to Baghdad, as "...things are too unstable. Maybe I'll retire and go somewhere else." (RSO/POL)

#### IMPLEMENTING THE NON-SURRENDER ACCORDS

4. (SBU) We received the e-mail with the draft entry into force diplomatic notes for the non-surrender accords put together by L (Jim Waller Joe Novak 06-20-03 class e-mail). We will be working on this matter with the GoRM and the GSL in the next several days. IMPORTANT -- Please note that both the GoRM and the GSL have now told us that they consider the agreements to be in force. (Note: For the Maldives, the agreement came into force as an executive decree per President Gayoom's decision.

For Sri Lanka, the agreement came into force after the Cabinet agreed on the matter.) (POL)

PRESS PLAY RE PM MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

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15. (SBU) Just want to flag that there has been some press play here in the past several days to the effect that President Bush has agreed to meet PM Wickremesinghe on the margins of UNGA this September. The information in the articles was not sourced. When the leadership gets back from London, we will warn them against any such speculation. (POL)

PRESS PLAY RE PA-LTTE MEETING

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16. (SBU) There has also been some press play in the past several days asserting that Tiger officials secretly met with members of President Kumaratunga's People's Alliance (PA) party in recent days. The PA denies the stories, but we just wanted to flag the reports. If there was such a meeting, by the way, it would -- if we recall correctly -- be just about the first meeting the PA has had with the Tigers since the advent of the peace process. (POL)

EXPORT LICENSE DELAY

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17. (SBU) An American company, FXC Corporation, has a contract to supply the Sri Lankan Army with parachutes. The export license application has been in the works for over 8 months, and they're about to request a second extension on their Letter of Credit. Could you please get in touch with the appropriate office and check on the status of application number 866792, submitted over the Internet on October 5, 2002? Many thanks. (COMM)

CHARGE CAMP IS HERE

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18. (U) Don Camp arrived in Colombo very early this morning and has assumed charge.

CAMP